

UDOT Environmental Experience Capture & Transfer

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Introduction

The purpose of this newsletter is to capture the lessons learned from specific projects and transfer that knowledge to the teams leading present and future projects.

This newsletter will be published on a monthly basis, will be e-mailed to all those who express interest, and will also be available for download via the UDOT web site. Information will be presented by UDOT Environmental Services and include comments received by local, resource center, and legal staff of FHWA. Every attempt will be made to ensure that the comments are placed in the appropriate context. If anything you read is unclear, please contact Reed Soper at 965-4159 or rsoper@utah.gov.

Community Impact Assessment Training

On June 16 & 17, UDOT held Community Impact Assessment (CIA) training. It was sponsored by Angelo Papastamos from Context Sensitive Solutions and Environmental Services. Invitees included UDOT central and regional environmental staffs, UDOT's Public Involvement Coordinators, the lead Project Managers, and FHWA. Anne Morris from PBS&J and K. Lynn Berry of FHWA (both nationally-recognized experts in the field) were the instructors. The training provided a framework for what a CIA is and why it is important. In essence, a CIA gathers information about communities that will help us to understand the human context, so our projects can successfully "be an asset to the community". One of the highlights of the training was a field component. Attendees talked with members of the public about what they valued about their communities. The goal was to provide practical application of some of the techniques learned in the classroom. We plan on offering this training again to Project Managers and consultants in the future. If you have questions, please let me know at rsoper@utah.gov.

Adventures in Streamlining

Based upon a request from the Structures Division, UDOT's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding state-funded minor highway improvements has been updated. The MOU now includes bridge maintenance activities, specifically: deck pothole patching, deck overlays, painting, application of concrete sealants, joint replacement, bearing replacement, and any other activity that will not affect the appearance of the structure. Much thanks to Dave Nazare, Dave Eixenberger from UDOT Structures and the folks at SHPO for their hard work and cooperation. Copies of the agreement can be downloaded from our web page.

Upcoming Events

July 26 & 27 – Functional Assessment Wetland Training. Contact Terry Johnson at TerryJohnson@utah.gov for details.